

2005 District Report of Accomplishments (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005)

Adams Conservation District



Most Significant Natural Resource Accomplishment

FY 2005 was a transitional year that gained a majority interest in support from the local cooperators for support of watershed implementation activities for WRIA 34. This process has been the culmination of confidence building, cost share support and cooperative efforts between NRCS, the conservation district, Department of Ecology and Conservation Commission implementation programs combined with the introduction of an "AmeriCorp" work force support concept. Providing supervised support labor for protecting streams combined with district cost share support programs has become a turning point for gaining landowner participation.



Mission of the Adams Conservation District

- *The Adams Conservation District promotes the enhancement of the natural environment and provides technical assistance to develop a positive relationship toward achieving that goal.*

Natural Resource Improvements in 2005 - Summary

- *As the implementation funding cycle concluded in June of 2005 two final reports (1DOE-1WCC) were forwarded identifying the following non point implementation accomplishments-*
 1. *9 wildlife watering projects completed*
 2. *14 stock watering tanks installed to support off site watering to limit direct stream access*
 3. *1 grassed waterway*
 4. *2 sediment containment dams completed*
 5. *3 pipe drop extension sediment containment projects completed*
 6. *Over 71,450 feet (13.5 miles) of fence to protect streams and enhance livestock grazing activities.*

The remaining focus for implementation activities provides "walk in" technical assistance; "information and education" components including cooperative watershed planning support, "Area Ground Water Management" support and community interaction as required to support the environmental issues being faced within Adams County.

- *Palouse Scoping DOE grant Award*
- *Cow Creek Implementation DOE grant award*
- *Terry Husseman Shoreline Protection grant award*
- *County Fecal Base Line DOE grant award*
- *Palouse Riparian implementation DOE grant award*
- *Palouse Implementation DOE award*

Water Quality Implementation

- *With a continuing emphasis toward nutrient management contributions of animal feeding operators, the district receives an increasing number of technical assistance requests to meet compliance standards. With a strong compliance objective for livestock exclusion for public waters "off site" water installation, fencing projects and riparian enhancement objectives are underway and direct stream animal access is beginning to be more restrictive. The Cow Creek watershed consist of over 287,000 acres under the basic agriculture control of less than 15 operators, consequently there is not any "small" project that can easily be accomplished. Among the most difficult challenges the district faces is an effort to gain adequate funding to distribute evenly in a manner that can demonstrate a fair & impartial distribution while still recognizing the priority for beneficial use emphasis associated to agriculture non point pollution issues.*
- *Over \$157,000 in implementation projects generated an additional \$132,000 in secondary support from other grant opportunities!*

Basic Funding

Providing technical assistance support offers our cooperators innovative approaches for reducing erosion efforts. The primary implementation focus currently is in support of the livestock industry in response to livestock non point waste management issues combined with riparian buffer compliance concerns

identified through the Department of Ecology advisory letters many of the district cooperators received in the winter of 2004.

- *Participating with area cooperative agency meetings such as local work group priorities*

Local Funding

- *USDA-EQIP provides the largest local funding support, however interaction with WSU cooperative extension and Fish & Wildlife department provide additional support to achieve conservation goals.*
- *The WCC implementation and the Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water cost share programs offer incentives for local cooperators to consider implementation activities.*

Professional Engineering

- *During the past year support from this program has remained less than desirable due in part to increased workload from other participating districts.*
- *One rock armoring project remains pending and one water distribution system is being planned.*

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- *The CREP program is not applicable for this district.*

Livestock/Dairy

- *Only one dairy currently exists within this district and that plan was completed with assistance from the Upper Grant CD partnership*
- *The majority of Cow Creek cooperators have requested implementation support.*

Irrigation Efficiencies

- *Through basic implementation funding, this district has been offering localized irrigation water monitoring support program since 1985.*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *Big Bend RC&D and Department of Fish & Wildlife continue with support efforts of the Sprague Lake public boat launch area.*
- *A Spokane Fly Fishing Group has provided volunteer labor to assist with riparian plantings along Cow Creek.*

Small Farm Programs

- *There are very few “small” farms that exist within the Adams Conservation District, however equal consideration is given when an application is received. Primary interest to date has been for windbreaks and sediment control assistance.*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *A 5 county direct seed minimum tillage program involves USDA-NRCS, ARS, EPA, DOE, U of I, WSU cooperative extension participants and volunteer cooperators and conservations district within the participating counties.*
- *The equipment rental program provides an additional number of collaborators in promotion of the various implementation factors associated with tools benefits.*

Information & Education

- *Participation with WRIA planning, Big Bend RC&D, Water shed planning meetings, GWMA, FFA soil Judging, 5th grade field day, 6th grade essay contests, annual meeting, CPESC, SWCS groups provide a cooperative approach to addressing local community conservation issues.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

